

Chancellor Blank,

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin football program, we are writing to you about the decision you and the university will be making regarding the future of our fellow student-athlete and teammate, Quintez Cephus. Through our conversations with Quintez, we understand that, in the next few days, decisions will be made that will greatly impact not only Quintez, but all of us. Yesterday we asked Coach Chryst if he could help us arrange an in-person meeting with you. Obviously, you are a very busy person as the Chancellor of our University and he mentioned that you are currently in Hawaii, so we have chosen instead to write to you today. We are asking you to hear our collective voice -- not just us, the leaders of this team, but also our current and past teammates. We want you to hear us. Right now, we have an opportunity to handle this quietly and with respect to the many people involved and impacted by this series of events. We are reaching out with a sense of urgency due to the time sensitivity of this situation.

Quintez is a caring, loving, trustworthy, loyal, appreciative, authentic, open-minded and truly special person. We believe a person's true character is revealed in their darkest moments. There is no question the past 15 months have been difficult, emotional, painful, uncomfortable, and challenging for everyone. However, Quintez's stretch of hardship did not begin 15 months ago. Within the past two years, Quintez has been forced to face some unimaginable misfortune. Quintez's father was killed just before starting his second year at our University. As a way of coping, grieving, and attempting to comprehend the early death of his father, Quintez not only used football as an outlet from the pain, but also the family he had developed in the Madison community. Later that same year, Quintez had another major setback. The game he loved and used as a way to express his emotion was taken away from him due to a traumatic ankle injury. The recovery took several months, during which time he was crutching around campus. He was able to regain his health in the late spring and early summer. With the upcoming season and school year approaching, Quintez was forced to abandon the sport he loved along with the people who he knew love him. Although Quintez was going through a difficult time, he remained involved in the community around his hometown of Macon, Georgia, bringing light and joy to other people's lives. Over the course of this time, we have remained quiet and hopeful, trusting that the truth will guide the process, decisions, and ultimately the life

changing outcome of this case. The accusations made against Quintez are something we all take seriously. We also know Quintez. We know him well, more so than others who hold his fate in their hands do. Incredibly, throughout these years of turmoil, Quintez has remained positive and light-hearted. He has continued to bring happiness to everyone around him with his infectious smile, laugh, and optimism. You have an amazing opportunity to make an extremely positive impact on a young man's life and help him move forward from the toughest years of his life.

We understand that the University's Title IX decision was made with the best intentions and with the information available at that time. But there was information missing. While all of this was going on, we remained silent and respected the decision, knowing and hoping Quintez would have his day in court where all the facts would be presented, and his name would be cleared. Quintez was the defendant of a very public trial in which both sides were able to provide all their evidence. At the conclusion of the hearings and testimonies, it took a jury less than 45 minutes to come to the unanimous verdict of not guilty in favor of Quintez Cephus on both counts. Upon hearing the result of the trial, we all felt a wide range of emotions. This was never about winning or losing. It was about the facts, evidence, and the search for the truth. We all wanted the truth to be known. Now, we want all of those involved to be able to move on with their lives. The next step, a big step for Quintez to move forward, is the appeal he is making to you and the Title IX office. You now have all the facts. Quintez was found not guilty in a court of law, by a jury of 12. You and your staff now have an opportunity to make a fully informed decision for the first time. Your decision can alleviate a racial tension felt by your students. You get to decide whether the University confirms or corrects this feeling. You get to decide if the University of Wisconsin is comfortable with where they are or choose to move forward for the betterment of all of the past, present, and future Badgers. We ask you to do so. Please do what is right and fair. Clear Quintez's name and reconsider the punishment of a person, one of your students, who was found not guilty of what he was accused of.

You, and others, may assume we just want Quintez back on the football team. We want you to know Quintez is so much more than just a football player. He is a remarkable person, friend, and brother. We are asking you to give Quintez back the opportunities he had before

these accusations. Give him the chance to make his own decision to play football with his family at the University of Wisconsin. However, what we want most is for his name to be cleared of such serious accusations. Quintez was found not guilty and therefore all of his rights and opportunities need to be granted back to him. We want Quintez to be able to enjoy all of the great things this campus has to offer.

Tomorrow we will be sending you a copy of this letter, signed by all of the players who support and endorse this message. You will see we are unified as a team and feel strong in our support of Quintez. For all of us, this is about what is right and what is fair. We would expect that from our University for any student. It is our hope that you would genuinely want the same. We also will be sending a copy of this letter to the President of the University System as well as to the Head of the Board of Regents.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter. We hope you will read this but, more importantly, "hear us" and treat Quintez fairly and justly. Quintez is not guilty. Please grant him back the opportunity to clear his name, finish his degree and play the game he loves with those who love him here at the University of Wisconsin.

Please confirm you have received and read our email by sending us a response back.

Most sincerely & forever forward,

Chris Orr

Zach Baun

AJ Taylor

Tyler Biadasz

Jonathan Taylor

Garrett Groshek

Jack Coan